

privilege of knowing Bud and, as was the case for many, he became my friend.

Bud Doggett was born in Washington, returned here after World War II, and never left. He loved this city and worked tirelessly to help it and its residents. While building a significant corporate empire based on parking, real estate and banking, Bud kept an eye and a hand on everything political and important that shaped Washington over the past 50 years. Bud was "old school," literally smoking cigars in the back room. He shunned publicity and attention, liked to refer to himself as a parking attendant, but Bud was the D.C. power broker who always had the best interest of the city at heart.

Bud spearheaded diversity in Washington's business community in the early 1960s when segregation was still pervasive if more quiet. He walked the streets with Mayor Washington to calm the turmoil after Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, and played a decisive role in the election of most District leaders since Home Rule and the economic development that transformed a sleepy southern town to a world-class city.

With the strong, paternal hand came a softer heart. Bud's philanthropic efforts are legendary, anchored by HEROES, a largely anonymous group he founded in 1964 that helps the families of law enforcement and firefighters in the region who die in the line of duty. There are literally hundreds of families who have had their mortgages paid, their children sent to college, and their lives re-established because Bud and HEROES never forgot their loved one's sacrifice and were always there to help.

Bud was the last of his breed for Washington. There's no one with the same reach, respect, and authority to single-handedly keep the city on track. It's up to a new batch of political, business, and civic leaders to see if collectively they can provide the stability, direction and discipline that Bud did. It's a very tough act to follow.

TRIBUTE TO BRANDON AND TONY SILVERIA IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR DEDICATION TO CURBING UNDERAGE DRINKING IN OUR COUNTRY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brandon Silveria and his father, Tony Silveria, two courageous individuals who have turned a personal tragedy into a message of hope and possibility for teenagers and their families across the country.

On March 1, 1987, Brandon Silveria had the world at his fingertips. He was a popular high school athlete in Los Gatos, California. He and his friends had dreams of making the Olympic rowing team and attending Boston College on rowing scholarships.

But on that day, Brandon's dreams were shattered by one bad decision. Brandon and his friends went to a party and drank alcohol. Seventeen-year-old Brandon drove everyone home. After he dropped his best friend off, Brandon continued the short drive to his house. He never made it. Brandon crashed his car into a tree and barely survived.

Brandon's parents, Tony and Shirley Silveria, rushed to the hospital to be by Brandon's side and faced the nightmare of almost losing their son to an underage drinking and driving crash. Brandon spent 3 months in a coma followed by 3 years in rehabilitation. Brandon had to relearn everything. Walking, talking and eating were skills he had to regain. He worked hard to recover and his family stood by his side and nursed him back to health.

Today, Brandon and Tony travel the country for The Century Council, a not-for-profit organization funded by distillers to fight drunk driving and underage drinking. Over the last 20 years they have spoken to over 2 million students in all 50 states across the nation—from Maine to California—and their story has been told on "Rescue911," NBC's "TODAY Show," and the Discovery Channel's "HEALTHWATCH." Their message focuses on encouraging teens to make the right choices, resist peer pressure, and realize the trauma created by this kind of personal tragedy.

I first met the Silverias in the fall of 2007 when The Brandon Tells His Story program was featured at one of the high schools in my district. I was so moved by their presentation that I have worked with The Century Council to bring this compelling message to the teenagers and parents in two other high schools in my district.

Brandon walks and talks with great difficulty but that doesn't prevent him from delivering a forceful message to teens about the dangers and consequences of drinking and driving. He has permanent health problems as a result of a traumatic brain injury and must travel the country with his father. Tony has his own program for parents called Tony's Tips where he discusses the impact Brandon's crash had on his family and about the importance of talking to your kids about underage drinking. Many families unravel emotionally or financially in the face of a tragedy like Brandon's. Despite this often sad reality, the Silverias managed to pull together and make it their mission to deliver a lifesaving message to teenagers and families across the country.

Madam Speaker, because of the Silverias' mission to share their story, more than 2 million students have seen firsthand the tragic consequences of underage drinking and driving. I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking Brandon and Tony for their courage and commitment to saving the lives of our nation's children, and in extending to them our best wishes for continued success in exemplifying for all us what it means to overcome tragedy and work to make a difference.

IN HONOR OF RABBI PETER H. GRUMBACHER

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Rabbi Peter H. Grumbacher for his retirement in June 2009 after more than thirty years of service at Congregation Beth Emeth and throughout the Delaware community.

Rabbi Grumbacher moved from New York City to Wilmington upon his ordination from

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. He became an Assistant Rabbi and Director of Education at Congregation Beth Emeth and after several years of service to the Jewish faith and the community, he was named Senior Rabbi in 1982. Constantly pursuing ways to better serve our community, the Rabbi earned his Masters of Social Work from the Wurzweiler School of Social Work of Yeshiva University.

Along with his strong emphasis on education, Rabbi Grumbacher also served on a variety of local boards, including as the chairperson of the State Human Relations Commission, chairperson of the Delaware Interfaith Coalition of Aging, and as the senior co-chair of the National Conference of Christians and Jews (now the National Conference for Community and Justice). Locally, the Rabbi served as a chaplain for Jewish patients for 27 years. On a national level, Rabbi Grumbacher serves on the National Commission for Rabbinic and Congressional Relations while also previously serving as President of the Mid-Atlantic Region Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Once again, I commend Rabbi Peter Grumbacher's achievements and over three decades as leader of Congregation Beth Emeth. His remarkable commitment to his congregation, our state, and our nation speaks volumes about his character, integrity, and selflessness. I am very fortunate to feel his positive impact in the community where my own family and friends reside, and I trust that this will still be so. I wish Rabbi Grumbacher the very best in his well-deserved retirement and am confident he will find happiness and success in all his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAIRFAX CABLE ACCESS CORPORATION (FAIRFAX PUBLIC ACCESS)

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fairfax Cable Access Corporation and to celebrate their 25 years of service to the community.

As a provider of public access television and radio programming, Fairfax Cable Access Corporation stands as an exceptional example of a nonprofit organization working closely with the community for mutual benefit. In 1984, Fairfax Public Access broadcast its very first program. From these humble beginnings, airing just a few hours each week, Fairfax Cable Access Corporation has grown into one of the larger organizations of its type in the country. Fairfax Public Access now operates two cable television channels and one cable radio channel. In 2008, Fairfax Public Access employed 20 full time staff members and aired 5,327 hours of programming.

This remarkable growth has been matched by the successes of Fairfax Cable Access Corporation in reaching out to our diverse community in Fairfax County. The programming is representative of the county's diverse ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds. With programs in 14 different languages, Fairfax Cable Access Corporation is able to inform, educate and entertain peoples from around the world who call Fairfax home.

I particularly commend the educational training programs available from Fairfax Public Access in the fields of radio and television production. Thousands of individuals have successfully been trained in these fields by Fairfax Cable Access Corporation and their training program is now listed in the Adult Education catalogues for the local public schools systems.

In recognition of excellence, the Fairfax Cable Access Corporation has been awarded numerous Telly Awards which honors the very best in local, regional, cable and internet programming. The winners of this prestigious award are chosen from the thousands of entries received each year from all 50 states and 5 continents.

Madam Speaker, the quarter century of excellence from the Fairfax County Cable Access Corporation is a true success story, both for the organization and the many citizens it serves. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the achievements of Fairfax Cable Access Corporation and to applaud their commitment to communication, education and service to the community.

HONORING THE MICHIGAN CENTRAL RAILROAD PASSENGER TRAIN STATION

HON. MARK H. SCHAUER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. SCHAUER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor today the Michigan Central Railroad Passenger Train Station in Jackson, Michigan as they celebrate the Second Annual National Train Day and the 140th Anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad.

On May 10, 1869, in Promontory Summit, Utah, the "golden spike" was driven into the final tie that joined 1,776 miles of the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railways, ceremonially creating the nation's first transcontinental railroad. These railways provided jobs for thousands of Americans. Now, 140 years after the "golden spike" connected east and west, there's never been a better time to take the train.

In an era of many constant challenges and changes that face our daily lives and at a time when we all share the same pressing concerns about environment and energy conservation, trains are a more energy-efficient mode of travel than either autos or airplanes. The historic Michigan Central Railroad Passenger Train Station opened its doors to the public on September 1, 1873 and is the nation's oldest train station in continuous active use.

I am proud to join with the Jackson community in honor of this coast-to-coast celebration of the way trains connect people and places.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE AMBULANCE ACCESS PRESERVATION ACT

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medicare Am-

bulance Access Preservation Act. This bill would ensure that my constituents in Massachusetts, and people across the country, continue to have access to ambulance services. Ambulance service providers are a critical part of our country's first responder and health care systems. In fact, as we discuss how to reform our health care system I can think of nothing more fundamental than ensuring that people have access to life-saving emergency ambulance care.

We all know the importance of ambulance services. Many of us see them every day transporting ill or injured individuals to the hospital. Some of us have even been transported and received pre-hospital care in an ambulance. Dedicated, skilled professionals work in these ambulances, ensuring that patients receive the care they need and ensuring that communities are prepared in the case of a disaster. The need to ensure the availability of these services is clear. Yet, Medicare reimbursement policy has harmed rather than helped to reach this goal.

Under the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, Congress authorized the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to develop a Medicare ambulance fee schedule. The rates developed under the fee schedule were significantly below what it cost many providers in Massachusetts to deliver services. In May 2007, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) confirmed this problem by determining that Medicare reimburses ambulance service providers on average 6 percent below their costs and 17 percent below cost in "super rural" areas. Ambulance providers aren't even breaking even in Medicare—Medicare reimburses ambulance providers below their costs for every person they transport.

Congress has recognized this shortfall and included temporary Medicare ambulance relief provisions in both the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) and the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA). However, all of these provisions expire at the end of 2009. To address this problem, I have worked with ambulance service providers in my state to develop a permanent Medicare relief package.

My legislation would increase reimbursement to rural and urban ambulance suppliers by 6 percent, and super rural providers by 17 percent. These numbers are consistent with the GAO report. This package will ensure not only continued availability of ambulance services, but also that ambulance service providers will be able to maintain standards of providing quality health care to patients.

As we address health care reform, we must begin by remembering the basics. Ambulance services are a fundamental part of our health care system. Congress must ensure that all Americans continue to have access to ambulance services and that the dedicated men and women who provide ambulance services have the tools and resources they need to serve patients when timely, expert medical care is needed most. I ask my colleagues to join me in this effort by cosponsoring this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on May 13, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my vote for rollcall No. 249.

Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 249—aye, on agreeing to the amendment.

THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE FILIPINO VETERANS FAMILY REUNIFICATION ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act, a companion to Senator AKAKA's bill of the same name, which will provide for the expedited reunification of the families of our Filipino World War II veterans.

As you know, Filipino veterans are those that honorably answered the call of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and served alongside our armed forces during World War II. They fought shoulder to shoulder with American servicemen; they sacrificed for the same just cause. We made a promise to provide full veterans' benefits to those who served with our troops. And while we have recently made appreciable progress toward fulfilling that long-ignored promise, we have not yet achieved the full equity that the Filipino veterans deserve.

In 1990, the Congress recognized the courage and commitment of the Filipino World War II veterans by providing them with a waiver from certain naturalization requirements. Many veterans thereafter became proud United States citizens and residents of our country. However, allowances were not made for their children and many have been waiting decades for petition approval.

The Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act would allow for the further recognition of the service of the veterans by granting their children a special immigration status that would allow them to immigrate to the United States and be reunified with their aging parents. It is important to note that the Filipino soldiers who fought under the command of General Douglas MacArthur at this critical time in our nation's history represent a unique category. These soldiers were members of the United States Armed Forces of the Far East. They were led to believe that at the end of the conflict they would be treated the same as American soldiers. It took more than sixty years to begin to make good on our commitment. The Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act recognizes the special circumstances of this group of soldiers.

I look forward to working with my colleagues by providing for the reunification of our Filipino World War II veterans with their families.